New schemes to boost tourism industry

*640. SHRI B. J. PANDA :
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an increase in tourists during 2002 as compared to 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is because of visa-on-arrival scheme and service tax exemptions on hotels and tour-operator charges; and

(c) whether Government have any plans or schemes to boost tourism in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has the following short-term and long-term plans to boost tourism in the country :

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity;
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements;
- Creation of world class infrastructure;
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes;
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism;
- Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values; and
- Development of tourism circuits and tourism-cum-cultural hubs.

In addition to the above, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated following schemes for the integrated development of infrastructure facilities and promotion of tourism in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan

(i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.
(ii) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.
(iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.
(iv) Capacity Building for Service Providers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Synchronisation of flight and train timings

4642. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether flight timings of Indian Airlines are fixed in coordination with the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that evening flights to Hyderabad from different cities are not suitable to people wishing to catch train; and

(c) what are details of steps proposed to be taken by Indian Airlines to make its flight arrivals and departures from Hyderabad suitable for people wishing to catch trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines flight timings to Hyderabad and other cities have been fixed keeping in view the market feedback, and operational requirements.

Customer-friendly services of IA

4643. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines is revamping its entire commercial systems and practices to attract more customers;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is following old rules and old systems in matter of sale of tickets, extending validity of tickets and general negative attitude by its duty managers to requests from passengers;

(c) if so, in what manner Indian Airlines propose to have a customer-friendly ground and commercial services; and

(d) the improvements made in the last six months to help customers with the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Indian Airlines continuously endeavours